



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Public Social Services

At its meeting held June 15, 2004, the Board took the following action:

16

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“Since 2002, personnel from the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) have collaborated with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to conduct small pilot programs to assist homeless CalWORKs families in the Skid Row and San Gabriel Valley areas find permanent housing and provide supportive services. These projects are proving very successful. Though small, they connect families with public assistance, emergency housing, crisis intervention and counseling, employment services, as well as mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse services.

“The 2002 pilot project served 26 families in the Skid Row area for six months. At the conclusion of the project, all of the families found housing, 12% of them found jobs, and the impact on children was enormous. Children began attending school and most were attending counseling sessions with their parents. As a whole, the project had a significant impact on the families’ well-being.

“The Skid Row project was so successful that in 2003, another project was initiated, this time adding 20 more families from the San Gabriel Valley. These two projects began in October 2003 and will continue through June 2004. To date, all 40 families are off the streets. Three have found permanent housing, 25 are in transitional housing, and 12 are in emergency housing.

(Continued on Page 2)

“The families are now completing Section 8 applications and are participating in group focus meetings to prepare them for permanent housing and assist them in building a foundation to become self-sufficient and avoid future homelessness.

“The Director of Mental Health has contracted with the California Institute of Mental Health (CIMH) for the projects’ evaluation study. Subject to the results of the evaluation, due in December 2004, the pilot projects seem to be potentially viable Countywide.

“When CIMH completes its evaluation of the projects, DPSS and DMH will return to the Board with recommended actions regarding service design changes (if any). Pending the evaluation results, DPSS, DMH and LAHSA are collaborating to continue the two projects in the Skid Row and San Gabriel Valley areas and expand them by adding four additional pilot projects, one each in Supervisorial Districts 2, 3, 4 and 5, for FY 2004-05.

“While the expansion plans are being finalized, it is critical that, at least temporarily, we continue the two projects in Skid Row and the San Gabriel Valley, so that services to these families can continue, especially given how close the families are to attaining permanent housing. While no additional funding is needed by DPSS or DMH to temporarily continue the project, LAHSA has indicated additional funding is needed to continue providing its services.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Director of Public Social Services was authorized to amend the contract with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to increase the maximum contract amount by no more than \$63,312 for continuation of services from July 1, 2004 to September 30, 2004, to assist CalWORKs families in the Skid Row and the San Gabriel Valley areas find permanent housing.

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